



The Fermilab Speedway — It's Not!!

Author: Rich Ruthe

Editor: Mary Logue

The streets are clear, the sun is bright, and the urge to drive a little faster is lurking in the back of our minds. We have our sunglasses and are flexing our hands in our driving gloves. We should remember, however, that posted speeds on site take into consideration visibility, the condition and size of the road, and other safety factors. Double yellow lines, and stop, yield and other signs are posted based on safety considerations as well.



At Fermilab, we are governed by the State of Illinois Vehicle Code and the *Rules of the Road* publication. These are the same standards that motorists are legally obligated to observe when operating vehicles on public roadways throughout Illinois. Failure to follow these regulations on laboratory property could result in the issuance of citations by Fermilab Security and possible disciplinary action. Some examples of infractions that can result in a citation include:



- Exceeding the posted speed limit in parking lots.
- Exceeding the posted speed limit on Fermilab roadways.



- Not coming to a complete stop at posted stop signs.
- Failure to yield right-of-way to vehicles where required, or to pedestrians.
- Crossing a double yellow line to pass any vehicle, except for slow moving equipment after being signaled by the operator that it is safe to pass.



Of course, when driving conditions are less than ideal, additional precaution is needed. The deer on site are especially active for several hours after sunset. You need to keep a watchful eye because the deer are not good about looking both ways before they cross the road.



(Collision did not occur at Fermilab. This is what we want to avoid.
Fortunately, the driver was not hurt.)

During the winter, speed should be reduced in rain, snow and icy conditions.

The first hour after the start of rain is the most hazardous. The rainwater mixes with the oil on the road, which makes the roadway slick. The first few snow falls of the season can be particular hazardous because drivers have either forgotten how their vehicle handles in the snow, or they may be new to the experience of driving in snow.

Driving a vehicle on laboratory property should be no different than any work activity at Fermilab. Think about what you are doing, be alert for danger, and do not be in a hurry. Failure to do so could result in vehicular damage or personal injury, or both. A little courtesy when driving is always a good thing as well.

*This message should be distributed to all employees via delivery of un-addressed copies to Fermilab mail stations.
Suggestions for ES&H message topics should be directed to Mary Logue at grace@fnal.gov or X6329.*